



NORTHWOODS JOURNAL — SEPTEMBER 2018

A FREE PUBLICATION ABOUT ENJOYING AND PROTECTING MARINETTE COUNTY'S OUTDOOR LIFE

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Need Native Plant, Pollinator, or other Information for Fall Projects?



Need guidance with upcoming landscape projects involving native improving pollinator/butterfly gardening, wildlife habitat, or similar topics? Come visit Marinette County Land Water Conservation Division and UW-Extension, both located at the Land Information Office at the Marinette County Courthouse. There are many available flyers, brochures, guides, and other materials available to help with your project. Staff from LWCD & UWEX can answer questions you may have or help with suggestions. In addition, the Northern Lights Master Gardeners' Association holds two plant sales, one in May and one in September (see page 8) that include a wide variety of plants. NLMGA volunteers & UWEX staff will be present to answer questions and help with plant selection. Visit the LWCD, UWEX, & NLMGA on Facebook, or call 715-732-7784 (LWCD) or 715-732-7510 (UWEX) for more information.

Peshtigo Fish Viewing Platform Update

By Chuck Druckrey, Water Resource Specialist



Since early 2015 the City of Peshtigo, BPM Inc., Wisconsin Public Service, and the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division have been working to convert an abandoned industrial facility into a fish viewing platform which will benefit residents of Peshtigo and surrounding communities.



The project will utilize existing bridge pylons to support a viewing pier that will stretch nearly 160 feet over the Peshtigo River. The project will also include improved parking facilities, new hard-surfaced trails, lighting, seating and educational signage. When complete the project will allow visitors to get an up-close view of walleye, lake sturgeon, and other fish and wildlife that congregate below the Peshtigo Dam.

Planning for the project was largely completed in the spring of 2017 with

assistance from a Wisconsin Coastal Management Planning Grant which helped the City hire a local engineering firm to develop construction plans and specifications. The rest of 2017 was spent looking for funding sources to help pay for the project which has an estimated cost of nearly \$500,000.00.

Fundraising for the project has been very Last fall the Wisconsin successful. Stewardship Program approved a grant of \$285,000.00 and the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program approved \$100,000.00 additional grant for A third grant award of construction. \$8,300.00 was received in early 2018 from the Fund for Lake Michigan to pay for educational signage.

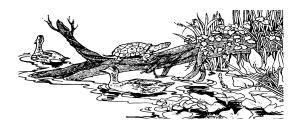
Locally, BPM and Wisconsin Public Service have also stepped up and pledged more than \$80,000.00 towards the project. The balance of the funding will come from the purchase of memorial plaques and other donations from many individuals and local businesses.

While community leaders had hoped to begin construction of the platform this fall, there have been some unexpected delays and the City has only recently received final approval of the Coastal Management Grant. As a result, the City will be advertising for bids in early 2019 and construction of the platform will be re-scheduled for late summer or fall of 2019.



Image courtesy of UPEA Engineers & Architects





Fall is the Best Time to Look for Zebra Mussels as Boats & Piers are Removed for Winter



ZEBRA MUSSELS
"THE SILENT STRANGLER"

5'10"

5'8"

5'6"

5'4"

5'2"

47A589 POLICE DEPARTMENT

MUGSHOT

As the temperatures fall and lake residents begin to remove piers, docks and boats from the water, remember to check for any new invaders that might have attached themselves to the equipment while it was submerged over the summer.



Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native plants and animals that threaten Wisconsin's lakes and river systems by causing environmental and economic harm. Zebra mussels can clog water intakes and pipes, encrust piers, boats, and motors, and their sharp shells can cut the feet of swimmers.





Zebra mussels have been found in less than 5% of Wisconsin lakes predicted to be suitable for zebra mussels. In Marinette County, they've been reported in Lake Noquebay, Rose Bush Lake, Peshtigo Flowage and Green Bay.

To protect the rest of Marinette County's lakes and rivers, the Land & Water Conservation Division (LWCD) is asking landowners and contractors to carefully examine piers, boats, boatlifts, rafts, and any other equipment that has been in the water for a prolonged period of time for signs of zebra mussels during removal.

According to LWCD staff, there are several lakes in Marinette County that have Zebra mussels – make sure you are draining your

boat before leaving the landing and launching in another lake.

In addition to a visual inspection, citizens/contractors are encouraged to feel smooth surfaces of equipment to check for juvenile zebra mussels as they may have a "sand-paper like" feel and are often invisible to the human eye. If zebra mussels or other new invasive species are found:

- Check that the invasive species has not been previously found on the waterbody by visiting
 http://docs.wig.gov/lakes/invasives/AISLists a
 - http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/AISLists.a spx?species=ZM
- Note the exact location where the animal was found.
- Take a digital photo of the animal in the setting where it was found (if possible).
 Then collect up to five specimens of varying sizes. Place in a jar with water; put on ice and transport to refrigerator.
- Contact Brenda Nordin, DNR AIS Coordinator at 920-662-5141 and deliver specimens.



Responding quickly to new AIS detections is critical to help curb the spread into other waterbodies. There are also specific laws lake property owners and contractors must follow to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Prior to removing equipment from the water Wisconsin law requires that you:

INSPECT boats, trailers, boat lifts, piers, rafts and equipment.

REMOVE all attached aquatic plants and animals.

<u>DRAIN</u> all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.

To learn more about zebra mussels or Wisconsin aquatic invasives species regulations, visit https://dnr.wi.gov: keyword "invasive species".



See page 4 for more about Invasive Species and how you can help prevent the spread.

Top Ten Outdoor Activities for Fall

By Jaime McLeod www.farmersalmanac.com



Summer is over, and in many places the air is turning colder. As the weather changes be sure to take advantage of what the fall season has to offer. Even if you don't live in a place that sees a lot colorful leaves, there are fun family friendly ways to get outdoors this fall.

- Go apple picking. Sure, most of us can get apples year-round from the grocery store, but there's nothing quite like orchard fresh apples, picked straight from the tree during harvest season. That crunchy, tangy, sweet apple flavor is at its peak during this time of year. Many commercial orchards will let you pick your own. It's not only fun, it's also a great way to show kids where their food comes from. Get extras for canning applesauce, or making pies. When you're done, warm up with a delicious mulled cider.
- ✓ Go on a nature hike. Bring along a field guide to identify different kinds of trees. Look for wildlife collecting food for winter. Explain to kids how animals are starting to fatten up and grow thick, protective winter coats. Watch for migrating birds.
- ✓ Collect fall leaves. Press them into books or preserve them in glycerin. Paste them onto handmade paper to create greeting cards, or glue them between two pieces of wax paper to make an attractive sun catcher. Go lightly on the glue, or substitute crayon shavings to add color, use a warm iron to melt the shavings and hold the paper together.
- ✓ Take a hayride. Many farms offer hayrides during the fall. This is a great way to kick back and enjoy nature with smaller kids who may not be up for a long walk.
- ✓ Visit the Pumpkin patch. Don't buy your Halloween pumpkin from the grocery store. Go straight to the source. Kids will love wandering around the patch to pick out the perfect pumpkin. Choose a couple of big ones for jack-o-lanterns, and grab a few smaller ones for painting or general household decorations. Smaller pumpkins make great additions to fall centerpieces. Roast the seeds in your oven with a sprinkling of tasty spices, and grab a few to make pumpkin pies.
- ✓ Visit a corn maze. Many farms earn extra income for the winter by turning their cornfields into large mazes. Test your directional sense, and get some fresh air in the process. Corn mazes are fun for all ages.
- ✓ Stuff a scarecrow. Dig out an old shirt and overalls, and stuff it with leaves until firm. Add a pumpkin head (from your trip to the pumpkin patch) and you've got a great fall decoration.
- ✓ Fly a kite. The gusty, brisk air makes autumn a great time for flying kites. Buy one from the store, or make your own from two long sticks, strong paper and string.
- ✓ Have a bonfire. Invite some friends over for a backyard bonfire. The chill in the air makes fall the perfect time to sit together by the warmth of a blazing fire with a nice warm mug of cocoa or cider. Be sure to get any necessary permits from your town first.
- ✓ Make a leaf pile and jump in!





Area Farmers' & Flea Markets



Crivitz Flea & Farmers' Market: Open every Thursday from May 24 through August 30, 8am-4pm across from St. Mary's Catholic Church at 800 Henriette Avenue. Wide variety of vendors with handmade arts & crafts, antiques, collectables and much more! Contact Barbara Uhl at 715-854-2030 to rent space by day or season up to first market date.

"OUT TO LUNCH" event at the Marinette Welcome Center parking lot with the "Tasty Traveler Food Truck", coffee vendors, honey vendor, pizza crafters, & produce vendors are welcome. Entertainment provided by the Goodfellas, local musical group, and Anita Neog Anaam, Kathak dancing performer. NO FEE to participate. Hours are 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., weather and attendance permitting. Contact Melissa Ebsch at Marinette City Hall, 715-938-2471.



Menominee County Farm & Food Exchange: Saturdays 9 am-noon outside by the Jack's Fresh Market grocery store at 1207 8th Ave., Menominee MI (just over Interstate Bridge to the right). On Facebook or call 906-639-3377.

Menominee Historic Downtown Farmers Market: June 2 to September 29, Wednesdays 3pm to 6pm Saturdays 8am-noon. Located at 800 1st Street (near the library) in Menominee, MI. Contact Lucy Pier, 906-863-8718 for more

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This is the last issue of the 2018
Northwoods Journal! The June 2019
issue will be available for the Memorial
Day holiday weekend.

Northwoods Journal Online

Would you like to read current issues of the Northwoods Journal online? Go to www.marinettecounty.com and search for 'Northwoods Journal". We can also send you an e-mail reminder when each new issue is posted online. Contact Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist at 715-732-7784 or email abartels@marinettecounty.com.

WDNR Explorer Program helps Kids Get to Know Nature



The Wisconsin Explorer Program is a parentchild discovery program in Wisconsin state parks and forests. Today, many children are growing up in structured environments that don't allow much time or freedom to play outdoors. By helping them connect to things they discover in nature, you nurture values of good stewardship and build strong bonds that will last for a lifetime.

Make tracks to the nearest state park, forest, trail or recreation area and ask for a free Wisconsin Explorer booklet. Inside you'll find nature activities, scavenger hunts, games, hikes and crafts to help you explore Wisconsin's great outdoors together. Kids who complete the requirements will earn collectable state symbol patches. Don't just sit there - get out and start discovering secrets together!



Wisconsin Explorer program grows with kids

There are three age levels in the Wisconsin Explorer program (3-5 years, 6-8 years and 9 years and up). Three themes help kids explore different parts of the great outdoors. With nine booklets, a three-year-old can begin the program this year and participate until age eleven without repeating a booklet.

Pick up a booklet and start exploring!

Wisconsin Explorer books are available at most state parks, forests and recreation areas. The program is designed and funded for each child to complete one booklet and earn one patch each year. To preview or download a booklet, select the cover that matches the age of your child.



Complete the evaluation and request a patch

After completion of the program, you and your child can fill out the evaluation/patch request form in the booklet. To receive a patch, turn the

form in at any participating state park or mail to:

Wisconsin Explorer Program Havenwoods State Forest 6141 N. Hopkins Street Milwaukee, WI 53209

Kids can earn a different patch every year. Kids who start the program at age three can collect all nine state symbol patches:

- American robin state bird
- Honeybee state insect
- Sugar maple state tree
- Muskellunge state fish
- Whitetail deer state wildlife animal
- Red granite state rock
- Wood violet state wildflower
- American badger state animal
- Trilobite state fossil



Educators and youth leaders

The Wisconsin Explorer program is designed for individual children visiting state properties with family members or adult friends. As an educator, you are invited to use Wisconsin Explorer booklets and activities with children in your class or group. However, children in these groups cannot earn patches. Educators and youth leaders can download the booklet PDF files or request one hard copy of each booklet. Permission is granted to copy individual activities, journal pages or entire booklets as long as copyright information remains on each page.

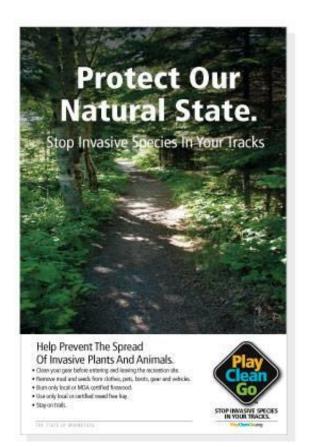
To download the booklets, learn more about the program visit online at https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/getoutdoors/we.html.

NATURE PLAY TEACHES KIDS TO

CLIMB HIGHER - THINK CREATIVELY
FIND THEIR OWN RHYTHM - EXPLORE
IMAGINE - RELY ON THEIR SENSES
ASSESS RISK - TEST THEIR BOUNDARIES
USE THEIR OUTSIDE VOICE - OBSERVE
NURTURE LIFE - RESOLVE CONFLICT
CULTIVATE A SENSE OF PLACE & SELF
IMPROVISE SOLUTIONS - FEEL FREE
RECOGNIZE BEAUTY - COLLABORATE
BE RESILIENT - REGULATE STRESS
LEARN THROUGH PLAY - WONDER WHY
GET MESSY - DEVELOP THEIR STRENGTH
BUILD IMMUNITY - GAIN PERSPECTIVE
FEEL CONNECTED TO THE WILD

Wilder Child | www.wilderchild.com





Help prevent the spread of Invasive Species!

- Remove plants, animals, & mud from gear, boots, pets & vehicles
- Clean your gear before entering & leaving the recreation site
- > Stay on designated roads & trails
- > Use certified or local firewood & hay

Invasive species are plants, animals, and microorganisms that are not native to a particular area. They are also species that are capable of causing severe damage in areas outside their normal range, harming the economy, the environment, or human health once they become established.



Invasive species are found in water and on land. In fact, invasive species can occur in just about every habitat type - lakes and streams, cities, fields and farms, and all of the native areas of the state. A few of the common species found on land include Canada thistle, common buckthorn, wild parsnip (above), and the two fungal species that cause Dutch elm disease and oak wilt. Another one that folks are becoming aware of is the emerald ash borer (below). Examples of aquatic invasive species include Eurasian Water Milfoil, Rusty Crayfish, and Zebra Mussels.



Not all non-native species are harmful. Wheat is a nonnative whose introduction has been very beneficial. The term "invasive" is reserved for the most aggressive nonnative species capable of changing site or living conditions for the worse where they establish.

How do they spread?

Every species evolves in its home territory to have one to several ways to expand its range. They may be windblown, rain splashed, carried by animals, or moved in soil or water. Almost all short-distance spread is through these natural dispersal mechanisms. In their home territory, short-distance spread is rarely a problem because the resident plants and animals have evolved to coexist more or less peaceably.



Cleaning a boat of aquatic plants that may include invasive species

Long-distance spread is almost always human assisted. Because long distance spread takes the species a long way from home, the resident plants and animals are not often prepared to cope with their new neighbor. Natural enemies are missing and host species often lack the natural defenses necessary to survive an attack by the introduced species. Once introduced, aggressive species are free to expand using short distance dispersal mechanisms with a competitive advantage over native species due to lack of natural enemies.

Do humans play a part?

Invasive species have many pathways of spread. For instance, weed seeds move easily in soil so muddy boots or vehicles can move weed seeds. Some weed seeds have special hooks to help them hitch a ride. Thus, weed seeds can spread on our shoes, socks, clothing, and pets. Some invasive plants are quite attractive, so they show up in nurseries as ornamental plants. They can also hide in nursery stock, potting mixes, or home décor made from raw wood products. A number of insect and disease pests of trees can move in cut firewood, pallets, or solid wood packing material.



Being aware of these pathways of spread can help us reduce the risk of accidentally moving harmful invasive species. By learning how to inspect and clean our belongings and knowing the source of the things we buy, we can reduce the chance of inadvertently spreading species that can harm things we cherish.

Why should we care?

Unless we can slow the spread of invasive species, life as we currently know it will change dramatically; from where we live and work, to the places we go, the products we buy, how we relax and play. All of it has the potential to change with the spread of invasive species, because so much of the spread is associated with the activities of private individuals. It's up to us to become informed, attentive, and accountable for our potential role in the spread of invasive species.

For more information about how to help prevent Invasive Species, visit www.playcleango.org. Other useful resources are:

- www.wrisc.org Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (includes Marinette County)
- https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives WI DNR Invasive Species information
- www.ipaw.org Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
- www.michiganinvasives.org Michigan Invasive Species Coalition
- <u>www.misin.msu.edu</u> Midwest Invasive Species Information Network

Autumn Fire Prevention

As September ushers in the start of a new school year, Mother Nature begins her process of settling down for the winter. Leaves turn colors and fall from trees; plants and grasses go dormant, leaving only crispy brown remnants of their green summer glory. As the temperature and leaves drop, the risk of wildfires rises. Wisconsin has a long history of destructive wildfires. Oct. 8 will be the 147th anniversary of the Peshtigo Fire, considered to be the nation's deadliest fire. The Peshtigo Fire burned more than a million acres of northeastern Wisconsin and upper Michigan in 1871, destroyed 12 communities, and took an estimated 1,200 to 2,400 lives.

Wildfires occur any time of the year when the ground is not snow covered. The air temperature can be below freezing or well above 80. This wide range of conditions -combined with campfires and the burning of leaves, brush, and even trash - increase the opportunities for fires to spread and burn natural resources and personal property.

In Marinette County, the main causes of wildfires during fall are trees and limbs falling on power lines, campfires, lightning, logging or farm equipment, burn barrels, leaf and brush burning and ash disposal. Taking precautions any time you use fire outdoors is key to preventing wildfires, and avoiding paying a hefty suppression bill should you start one.



If you use a woodstove or fireplace for heating your home, empty ashes into a metal container with a tight fitting lid or dump ashes onto bare soil then drown the ash with water and stir until you're sure no hot embers remain. The same goes for campfires, burn barrels and burned leaf and brush piles – before you leave the area, drown the ashes, stir, and keep adding water until all smoke is gone.

Keep aware of fire danger year-round by bookmarking the DNR's fire Web page: https://dnr.wi.gov (keyword 'fire'). For smartphones, the state map of fire danger is now mobile-friendly.

For more information about "Fire-wise" methods or resources, contact Jolene Ackerman, Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator, at Jolene.ackerman@wi.gov or call 608-267-7677.







Fall Migration Has Started! Keep an Eye Out for Monarchs

From https://journeynorth.org/monarchs/news/fall-2018/080118-fall-migration-starts-month



Here Comes the Migratory Generation

Are you interested in helping track monarch migration? Join citizen scientists around the country as they keep tabs on monarchs on their way to overwintering sites. By mid-August, the first members of the migratory generation emerged in the north. These butterflies are the great-great-grandchildren of the monarchs that left Mexico last spring. They have a long and challenging life ahead: they will migrate to Mexico this fall, survive the winter, and return in spring 2019 to begin the breeding season anew.

Monarchs migrate to Mexico from across eastern North America. They spend the winter in a very small region that's only 73 miles wide. Within the region, only 12 places have the habitat the butterflies need to survive. The sites are at a high elevation of 10,000 feet. There the oyamel forest habitat provides the microclimate conditions the monarchs need (below). The butterflies arrive in November and depart in March.



Monarch numbers reach their peak by fall migration. At no other time of year is the

population larger. Monarchs produce four generations during the typical breeding season and the population grows with each new generation.

When you see a monarch, we want to know. Please report your sightings of monarch adults, eggs and larvae. Start now and continue to report until you see your last monarchs of the season. Fall migration is about to begin!

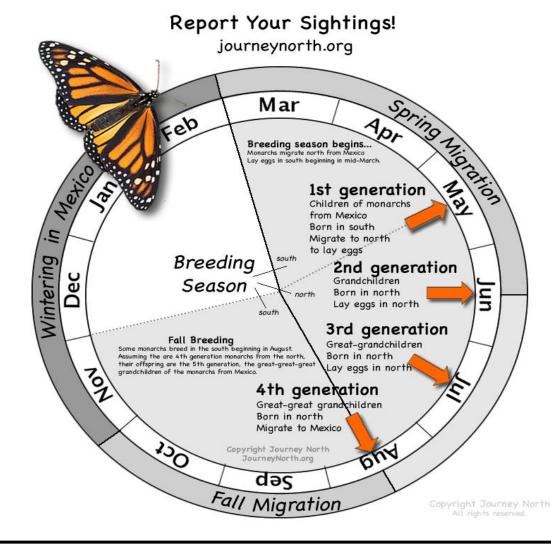


Report your sightings each fall and spring as the monarchs travel to and from Mexico. Track migration on real-time migration maps and follow the migration news. Fall migration extends from August to November; spring migration from March to June. Find out what to report each spring and fall. Scientists rely on the help of citizen scientists to understand the monarch's conservation needs. Your observations make a valuable contribution - and help tell the dramatic story of the monarch's journey to Mexico.

To help monitor monarch fall migration, visit https://journeynorth.org/tm/monarch/FallWatch. httml to register. Share your observations, view the migration map, compare previous seasons' maps, and learn more about monarch research.



Report Your Sightings



Monarch Migration Hazard - Roads

From Sierra Magazine, August 2018

Every fall, monarch butterflies embark on their famous migration, one of the most daunting in the animal kingdom. From the United States and Canada, they fly 3,000 miles to overwinter among the oyamel fir groves of central Mexico, in the exact place that their great-grandparents did. Over the past decade, however, the number of monarchs that make it to Mexico has been shrinking, and scientists are racing to figure out why.

Andy Davis, a research scientist at the Odum School of Ecology at the University of Georgia, points out that the breeding range for monarchs is huge - 48 U.S. states and eight Canadian provinces - but the numbers are declining in Mexico. This tells us, he says, that I something is happening along the journey. There are a number of natural risks and stressors that monarchs face during their migration: Some get caught over the Great Lakes and drown before they make it to the other side. Others die in storms. And monarchs traveling the Eastern Seaboard fight an often-losing battle with wind before making it to a rest area. But Davis discovered another hazard for the tiger-striped migrants cars and trucks.



In a recent study, published in the journal Biology Letters, Davis found that the single-largest cause of monarch mortality is roadways, where some 25 million butterflies die each year - often run over or caught in windshields or grills. In less direct effects, polluted runoff from oil and salts may be altering the quality of monarch larvae. Monarch caterpillars are also stressed by roadway noise, which, over time, actually changes their stress response.

An obvious takeaway from Davis's research is that roadside plantings of pollinator-friendly plants put monarchs at risk. While butterfly gardens along the highway may look beautiful and seem environmentally sound, butterflies and roadways don't mix. "We need for roadways to be as inhospitable as possible so that monarchs aren't drawn to them," Davis says.



Plantings for the butterflies, he says, would be more effective along the monarch's migratory route, particularly in Texas, where monarchs roost by the tens of thousands to fatten up before heading south. The butterflies depend on nectar-producing plants, large fields of which are crucial to their migration and 80-plus-day hibernation in Mexico. Butterfly gardeners in the Lone Star State could help them complete their journey by providing

Continued next page



Harmony Arboretum & Demonstration Gardens – a Unique Place to Visit in Marinette County!



History

This 460-acre county farm, formerly known as Harmony Farms, has been developed into a conservation and horticulture education area. It holds a majestic hardwood forest, restored prairie, a pine plantation, winding walking trails, agricultural fields, plus vegetable and flower demonstration gardens. Although the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division (LWCD) manages this area to provide wildlife habitat, recreation, and environmental education opportunities community is the key to its success. Management decisions are made with the help of the Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association, Chappee Rapids Audubon Society and the UW-Extension of Marinette County.

Harmony Hardwoods Memorial Forest

The Chappee Rapids Audubon Society built the walking trails and the footbridge in the Harmony Hardwoods Memorial Forest where good birding opportunities exist. Walking into these woods is like walking back into time. There are trees here that managed to escape the Great Peshtigo Fire in 1871 that burned 1.2 million acres in Northeastern Wisconsin. Two guided tours of these majestic hardwoods are held annually. The Wildflower Tour in May showcasing the spring wildflowers, and the Bird Watching Hike held in June for observing and listening to Marinette County's birds. There are trail markers and a corresponding brochure to guide visitors around the nature trail. Come out and take a relaxing walk through nature!



The Gardens

The Northern Lights Master Gardeners plant and care for the demonstration gardens. There is a wide range of perennials and annuals, vegetables, and landscape plants to explore. The Master Gardeners are out at the arboretum on a regular basis, and you'll usually see them working several days of the week. They always welcome questions. There is a quiet shadehouse to protect shade-loving plants complete with sitting benches and a water feature. There are a variety of demonstration vegetable and flower beds, an herbal sensory garden, an enabling garden, and a butterfly garden.



The Master Gardeners hold a plant sale here every spring and fall to help fund improvements to the

garden area and for education programming. Held in mid-May and early September, there are hundreds of plants to choose from. Throughout the summer, Master Gardeners present workshops on different subjects all relating to gardening, horticulture, and related topics. LWCD staff offer nature programs in addition to the Master Gardeners events from April to November.



Children's Learning Garden

The goal of the Children's Learning Garden is to involve children in gardening, excite their senses, and allow them to explore nature. There is an interactive sundial, a hedge maze, a wetland area with educational signage, and a sensory garden. Kids can also play in the "sailboat sandbox" and climb on a sea serpent. A 'pioneer cabin' area encourages imaginary play, complete with kid-friendly gardening tools, pioneer clothing and more. There is a 36-foot mural that depicts 50 native animals and plants – it is also the front of a triangular structure which houses the "Chipmunk's Tunnel" underground exhibit. Visitors imagine that they are only a few inches high, and what they see on the inside of the "tunnel" is what a chipmunk would see in his underground home.



The Prairie

The 17-acre demonstration prairie is managed by the LWCD. It flourishes with native prairie grasses and flowers. It's managed by prescribed burning. Fire kills invasive plants and young trees that can overtake native plants, and leaves the prairie species whose deep roots allow them to survive and grow back quickly. Bring your prairie flower guide and take a walk on trails that meander throughout the prairie showcasing the flowers and grasses. A guided tour is held annually in August during the prairie's peak to learn more about this habitat.



The Pavilion

A pavilion is located on site for anyone's use. It's a good place to have a picnic while enjoying the scenic beauty of the area around you, and a nice spot to take a rest after walking through the prairie. There is also an accessible restroom available onsite. Harmony Arboretum is located 7 miles west of Marinette on Highway 64 and 1/2 mile south on County E. Watch for the signs on Highway 64. The public is always welcome and the visit is free.

Visit https://www.marinettecounty.com & search for "Harmony" for a link to the website with photo tours and other information. You can also call UW-Extension at 715-732-7510 or Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780.

Harmony Arboretum – Wonder. Relax. Enjoy!

What's New at the Harmony Arboretum?

The plantings in the new shade house are complete, including a fairy garden and a rotting log ecosystem demonstration.



The "Art in the Garden" Event was held in early August. A variety of 'make it & take it' garden crafts were available, including birdhouses, garden pavers, jewelry, moss plant balls ('kokedama'), whimsical pot holders, painted garden stones, and even garden-inspired painted wine glasses.





From page 5, "Monarch Migration Hazards"

nectar-rich flowers for them to enjoy. They also need to have ample open fields between Canada and Mexico to rest without the risk of getting hit by cars.

Other scientists and experts think the focus should be on planting milkweed and point to declining acreage in the Midwest due to widespread use of the weed-killer Roundup. "If you plant it, they will come," says Dr. Herbert Wilson, a senior research associate in the College of Science at Texas A&M University. He says that ample milkweed is critically important for returning monarchs, because they need it to lay their eggs on. Wilson also points to the role of climate change: "It gets so hot that the eggs never emerge as caterpillars." One way or the other, it's up to humans whether the iconic monarch continues its reign.

Excerpts from https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/what-s-killing-monarchs-our-roads



Can I Still Put in a Food Plot?

Scott Reuss, Marinette County UW-Extension



With the recent changes to Marinette County's CWD status, this has been a common question and the answer is a definite 'yes'. As long as you have the time to prepare the area in which you are planting, you can actually plant many crops as late as mid-September and still have a worthwhile amount of forage for this fall's hunting season. Here we review many of the primary points you should think through as you develop a food plot plan. You can request copies of this information by contacting Reuss at the UWEX office at 715-732-7510 or email sreuss@marinettecounty.com.

The best crops for August or September planting include both spring and winter annuals. Cold-tolerant spring annuals will germinate and grow until very hard frosts and then die. The two types of plants that fit this bill are spring grains and brassicas. The best grain crop is probably oats (try to find forage oat cultivars, if possible, for better growth) followed by wheat and barley (below at left, oats at right).



The brassicas include a number of species, most notably turnip, radish, and canola, but may have a number of others in a mix. Winter annuals are plants that will germinate now, grow only leaves yet this fall, go dormant over winter, and start growing in spring to form their seed heads and mature normally. They produce lesser amounts of very high quality forage in the fall, and green up very quickly in spring to provide early season forage, as well. The grain crops are going to be cheaper to plant, even though you plant a lot more per acre (1 - 2 bushels), but the two groups also work pretty well in mixes.

Step 1: What are your goals?

Are you specifically looking to achieve certain goals, or a mix of many? Possible considerations include attraction timing, habitat supplementation, species assistance, viewing opportunities (hunting, photography, general knowledge), and other factors.

Step 2: Analyze your site.

There are some food plot crops that can handle nearly any type of site in our area, but there are some that definitely require certain soil conditions. Soil & site aspects that come into play for your decision making are soil type, drainage, frost pockets, sunlight, soil pH, soil fertility, depth to bedrock, can you water the plants?, and potentially some others. Part of site analysis may be conducting a soil test, so that you have accurate numbers for pH and soil nutrient content. If new to soil sampling, check out the UWEX publication on that topic at: http://www.soils.wisc.edu/extension/pubs/A2100.p df Soil sampling may not be absolutely necessary, as you may be able to get 'good enough' information by talking to myself, co-op agronomists, or others that know soils, especially if you are in a time crunch.

Step 3: Ask yourself some questions – and give yourself honest answers.

- How much do I want to spend?
- How much time do I have to commit to plot management? At what time of the year do I have this time?

 What types of equipment do I have available – either my own, borrowing, rental, or custom work arrangements?

Step 4: Get the plot ready to plant.

If working with a new site, you may need to work in lime, fertilizers, and/or organic matter amendments. With lime, it takes time to change pH, so if planning on planting perennial legumes you need to think this through. Weed management is the other big issue no matter the situation, you want to consider weed management opportunities. Annual cropping systems give you more flexibility, as you can do timely tillage, burn down herbicide applications, mowing events, or any combination therein. With perennial crops such as alfalfa & clovers, you have fewer options, so need to concentrate on getting weeds (especially perennial weeds) managed prior to planting & optimizing your timing to give your desired plants the advantage.

Step 5: Select your crop(s).

Do your crop selection based on the answers, or challenges faced, during the above steps. The other aspect that can really help (if manageable) is to plant different crops in different strips or squares. This will maximize year-round opportunities for a mix of wildlife species. There are dozens, if not hundreds, of species mixes that you can purchase. Some will work quite well in our area, some won't, and some are essentially worthless. Be cautious and read the species mix and make sure it fits your conditions & goals, and is adapted to our environment.

Step 6: Plant appropriately

Correct timing of planting operations depends on the interaction between your goals and your desired species. Seedlings need moisture and reasonable temperatures (varies by species) for maximum success rate. Planting at times of the year when stress is going to occur decreases stand density. Seeding depth is also very important. A few species (oats, wheat, rye) don't care too much, as long as there is sufficient moisture. Alfalfa & clover seeds need to be between ¼ inch and ¾ inch deep. Brassicas prefer that same general depth. Corn wants to be 2.5 inches deep. Soybeans prefer about one to 1.5 inches.

Along with seeding depth is seed to soil contact. The more deeply planted species have more flexibility in this regard. The shallowly-planted species need a firm seedbed at completion of planting, or their seeds will not be able to imbibe enough water to sprout and then get enough water through their young roots to survive. Plan on rolling the area prior to planting, or after, or both.

Step 7: Manage the plot

This may be fairly easy in some years. Challenging environmental conditions such as drought, excess heat, or too cool temperatures will create less growth of your desired plants and more weed growth. More often than not, you will want to (or need to) mow the area to help manage weeds, if herbicides are not an option. Appropriate sprays of legal herbicides also can do this for you. For example, glyphosate applications on glyphosate-tolerant crops or 2,4-D application on small grains to control broadleaf weeds.

Watering may be necessary, but may also be next to impossible – depending on the situation. If woody perennials are in your plans, you will need to water them, and you will need to fence them in for protection until they get large enough to make it on their own. Mowing perennial forages will also reinvigorate their growth, so that you have lusher growth in fall that is easier to feed on, as there is no old growth to reach through.

Step 8: Relax, wildlife doesn't need perfection

You may have a picture in your mind of how your plot should look but remember that deer, turkeys, grouse, songbirds, toads, butterflies, and everything else that will be attracted to your plants really don't care how neat, orderly, or even it is. In fact, they may like some of the weeds better!



Annual Halloween Family Fun Fest At Harmony Arboretum Saturday, October 13, 2:00–5:00 P.M.



Visit the Children's Learning Garden at the Harmony Arboretum for a 'spooktacularly' good time! Crafts, games, storytelling, pumpkin decorating, refreshments, a costume parade and more for the whole family! *The event is free, but non-perishable food item donations are appreciated.*





For more information, please call the UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510 or visit https://marinette.uwex.edu/.



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Please send comments to:
 Marinette County LWCD

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 abartels@marinettecounty.com

Area Events Calendar



May 29

AREA MUSEUMS OPEN. Marinette & Menominee County Historical Museums, Peshtigo Fire Museum, Amberg Historical Complex, Busville Doll Museum (Crivitz), Land of Oz Museum (Wausaukee) & West Shore Fishing Museum (M-35 north of Menominee, MI). Visit http://therealnorth.com/index.php/features/museums or call the Marinette/Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce at (715) 735-6681.

May-August

CRIVITZ FLEA & FARMERS MARKET, every Thursday from May 24, 2018 through August 30, 2018, 8am-4pm across from the St. Mary's Catholic Church at 800 Henriette Avenue. Wide variety of vendors with handmade arts & crafts, antiques, collectables and much more! Contact Barbara Uhl at 715-854-2030 to rent space by day or season up to first market date.

June-October

OUT TO LUNCH. Held every Thursday at the Marinette Welcome Center parking lot with the "Tasty Traveler Food Truck, coffee vendors, honey vendor, pizza (Howie's) crafters, and produce vendors are welcome. Entertainment is provided by Goodfellas, a local musical group, and Anindita Neog Anaam, Kathak dancing performer. NO FEE to participate. Hours are 11:00 am to 2:00 pm or weather and attendance permitting. For further information, contact Melissa Ebsch @ Marinette City Hall 715-938-2471.

June-Sept.

FORGOTTEN FIRE WINERY OUTDOOR CONCERTS Join the fun every Saturday in June, July, August and September for the outdoor concerts. Music starts at Noon and ends at 4 pm. No carry-ins please. Visit www.forgottenfirewinery.com/events for a full listing of artists performing during the 2018 season. In Peshtigo

September 2

ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT WEST SHORE FISHING MUSEUM. 12-4p.m. Held at the West Shore Fishing Museum from noon to 4 p.m. Community picnic with brats and dogs, homemade pies, ice cream, keg root beer, live music, kids' games, raffle. Explore three museum buildings, gift shop, five commercial fishing boats, nature trails, and gardens and grounds. Located 15 miles north of Menominee on M-35. Enter the museum grounds through Bailey Park. For information contact the West Shore Fishing Museum at 715-923-9756.

September 15

OKTOBERFEST IN CRIVITZ. Held at the Crivitz Community Veterans Park, 510 Louisa St., from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. There will be German food, beverages, live bands, adult contests, children's games and more. For more information, persons may call the Crivitz Village Hall at 715-854-

September 22

MENOMINEE HISTORIC WATERFRONT DOWNTOWN GIANT PUMPKIN FESTIVAL. Held at Marina Park, Menominee. Events include pie-eating competition, jump around bouncy fun, pumpkin seed spiting contest, food and craft vendors, farmers market, live music, and the Giant Pumpkin Regatta Boat Race. For applications for the Giant Pumpkin Race or information people may email giantpumpkinfestival6@gmail.com or call 906-863-8718.

September 29

PESHTIGO HISTORICAL DAYS. Fire tower walk/run at 8am with registration from 6:30-7:45am. Parade starts at 10:30am. All main events at Badger Park - no admission charged. Car Show begins at 1 pm Activities include: horseshoe tournament, live music from 11:30am to 9:30pm, craft booths, food, balloon jumping equipment and games all day with fireworks at dusk.

September 30

CRIVITZ FALL HARVEST FEST at the Crivitz High School from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Many Crafters, over 60 Vendors, Bake Sale, Outdoor Decorations. Admission is canned good for a donation to the Crivitz Food Pantry. For more information, please contact Jolene Huc at (715) 854-2721

October 6

WAUSAUKEE FALL FESTIVAL. 10th Annual Wausaukee Fall Festival will host over 100 crafters lining the village from North of Jackson Street to Evergreen Plaza on east sidewalk of Highway 141. Food, beverage, crafters, horse drawn wagon rides, live music and the event will be held rain or shine. 9am to 5pm. For more information treasurer@villageofwausaukee.com or contact Sara at 715-856-5341.

October 13

HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN FEST. 2:00-5:00 pm at Harmony Arboretum (see page 5)

A family oriented event for kids of all ages. Many fun activities to keep all family members busy and active for your entire visit. Hands-on nature crafts, games, a costume parade and learning opportunities are just a few of the activities you can expect. Refreshments are available. Call 715-732-7510 for more information. Free - but food pantry donations at entrance are appreciated.

November 16 & 17 OLD WORLD CHRISTMAS MARKET. Held in conjunction with City of Menominee and the Menominee Downtown Business Association at Great Lakes Menominee Marina Park, Downtown Menominee, Nov. 16 from 5 to 9 p.m. and Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be crafts vendors, food, music, holiday sights and sounds.





Harmony Arboretum Fall Schedule of Events

Located seven miles west of Marinette off of Highway 64, then ½ mile south on County E. All programs are free unless otherwise stated. For more information, call UW-Extension at 715-732-7510 or Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780.



September 6 - Peppers: Are you Sweet or Spicy? 6:00-7:30pm

Tasting peppers can become an adventure in taste bud trauma if you don't know what you are sampling. This evening will give you the chance to knowingly sample a wide array of mild, warm, or spicy (if you so desire) pepper cultivars and possibly a few dishes made from them. We'll also review plant care, proper harvest and storage procedures, and some ways you can preserve them for later use.



September 15 - Plant Sale / Plant Pest Clinic 9:00am-Noon

Support the work done at Harmony Arboretum by purchasing plants from the Northern Lights Master Gardener Volunteers. UWEX staff will be on hand to identify any plant pest samples brought in and assist in pest management issues.

October 4 - Fall Landscape & Garden Management 5-6:30 pm

Although the growing season is mostly over by early October, there are still many tasks we can and should be doing to get our gardens and landscapes ready for the next growing season. Join in the discussion and hands-on activities at this session led by UW-Extension Horticulture Agent Scott Reuss.

October 13 - Halloween Family Fun Fest, 2:00-5:00 pm

A family oriented event - hands-on nature crafts, games, farm animal learning & petting area, with many more activities. Free, but food pantry donations accepted at entrance. See page 5 for more information.



December 4 - Astronomy Arboretum, 5:15-6:30 pm

Introduction to stars, constellations, star lore, and other space related topics - includes a stargazing tour. Handouts and information will be available. Dress for the weather, hot beverages will be provided; if rain, snow, or mostly overcast, event will be cancelled.